



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 37 • September 19, 2008



Kevin Bruski Offered IM Executive Director Position

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The IM Project Directors extended a job offer for the Interoperability Montana (IM) Executive Director position to Kevin Bruski, Montana Dept. of Transportation Communications Bureau Chief. The offer is contingent on the IM's ability to negotiate an employment contract.

According to the IM Project Directors Chair, Chief Alan Michaels, "The IM Project is pleased to have been able to attract such a talented and capable manager who can lead the IM Project in its future growth and development."

Central Montana Consortium Meeting

By Scott Bradford sbradford@mt.gov

The Central Montana Interoperability Communications Consortium (CMICC) met in Great Falls on Sept. 11 to review Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) activities and move forward on key projects with member agencies. IMPD discussion centered around the selection of an Executive Director candidate and the potential of funding a Regional System Manager position for the eastern portion of the Northern Tier Consortium. Project Director Cheri Kilby gathered input from consortia members in preparation for upcoming decisions on the matter. The impact of a position like this one on the Central Consortium also was discussed.

U.S. Air Force (USAF) representatives were not at the meeting, but progress on key issues such as site use legal agreements and site development work is being made. It is still hoped that work can begin on one of the major sites, Highwood Baldy, this year. Cheri stressed that Dave Hinds is the single point of contact on all USAF issues, and Kevin Bruski, MDoT, assisted by Pete Mohan, PSSB, will be the IM contacts.

The next CMICC meeting will be held Oct. 8 in Great Falls at a location to be announced.

Statewide Interoperable Executive Council Meeting

By Pete Mohan pmohan@mt.gov

The Statewide Interoperable Executive Council (SIEC) met on Sept. 10 at the Old Livestock Building METNET site in Helena as well as six other METNET sites throughout the state. SIEC Chair Dick Clark greeted members and thanked them for their participation in the first METNET meeting. The

minutes of the June 11 meeting were approved as well as a motion to conduct the next business meeting on Dec. 10.

Dick introduced Glendive Police Chief Alan D. Michaels, Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) Chair. Chief Michaels presented an update on the status of the IMPD and the IM Project, and he explained the new SAFECOM interoperability continuum which separates technology into both voice and data elements. Chief Michaels said that the latest guidance from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shows that interoperable communications is a common mission that is a part of every other national preparedness mission. Chief Michaels reiterated that Montana meets this guidance by the fact that the statewide interoperable communications system is the Governor's number two goal of his Homeland Security Strategic plan. In addition, the SIEC definition of having public safety officials share voice and data signals on demand, when needed meshes with the new SAFECOM continuum. Chief Michaels also stated that the Montana Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) has been approved by the federal government.

Chief Michaels then briefed the group on an IM organizational chart that clearly shows how local governments "drive the train." He also briefly explained the IMPD's recent hiring process for a full time Executive Director and introduced the selectee, Kevin Bruski, to the group. Chief Michaels reported that developing a sustainability plan is a key priority, and that Kerry O'Connell, Project Director for South Central Montana Interoperability Consortium (SCMIC), has just been named Chair of the Training Sub-Committee.

Chief Michaels outlined a recommended business practice wherein requested improvements or projects from a consortium are first approved at the consortium level, taken through the project-director level, assigned to the appropriate committee for vetting, and then presented to the IMPD board for approval or disapproval, ensuring that continuity of planning is complete. He emphasized the importance of remaining focused on overall goals and not being diverted by revisiting prior decisions that have already been implemented. Chief Michaels completed his presentation by illustrating to the group what has been accomplished and what is yet to be accomplished.

Dick Clark asked members for input on the continuation of the SIEC. There was unanimous agreement that the SIEC should be continued and that its membership be updated to include an additional state-level tribal representative and federal



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membership from the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Department of Interior, the Department of Homeland Security, and/or Customs and Border Protection.

Chuck Lee, 9-1-1 representative from Fallon County, raised concerns about four issues: 1) training of local jurisdiction users on radio and data requirements, 2) developing a way to measure levels of participation of consortia members, 3) developing a methodology to increase the awareness of 9-1-1 dispatch personnel to better understand how their operations will be affected by trunking, and 4) exploring the impact of new Phase II P-25 radio technology. Chief Michaels answered the questions as presented and invited Chuck to join the Training Sub-Committee. Bill Fleiner stated that although most of the Interlocal Agreements (ILA) have been signed and submitted, a lull has been experienced over the summer. He expects that the process will pick up again soon, and indicated that best measure of consortia participation is a signed ILA. Chief Michaels agreed that the 9-1-1 operations side will have to become more active as trunking enabled Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) are built out. Kevin Bruski, Executive Director Designee, stated that the IM Technical Committee is constantly examining new technologies to determine how they should or could be integrated into the IM System.

The next SIEC meeting is scheduled for Wed., Dec. 10 beginning at 10:00 am at a METNET site near you.

Northern Tier Site Planning Session

By Pete Mohan pmohan@mt.gov

Bill Fleiner, IM Governance Committee Chair, accompanied by Chris Christensen and Pete Mohan, Public Safety Services Bureau, met with Flathead County 9-1-1 Project Coordinator Mark Peck, Acting Director of Emergency Services Cindy Mullaney, County Radio System Administrator Jack Spillman, and IM Executive Director Designee Kevin Bruski, in Kalispell on Sept. 16 at the Flathead County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Topics included the use of the microwave transmission sites along US Highway 2 that affect connectivity from Glacier County to the IM Network, funding and technical options for expansion of the links. Further meetings are planned. The next meeting is to be conducted in October at the Flathead County EOC.

Critical Communications: Looking Ahead Conference

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

A one-day conference is taking place in Denver, CO on Oct. 1 to provide participants with the opportunity to interact with Tyco Electronics representatives as well as guest speakers. The event begins at 8:00 am with breakfast and check-in at the Denver Police Protective Association Event Center, 2105 Decatur Street.

At 9:00 am, president and founder of Pericle Communications Company, Jay Jacobsmeyer, will discuss challenges and benefits of operating in the 800 MHz band in mountainous regions. After lunch and a keynote speaker, Tina Rowe will present on the people challenges of interoperability. She has many years of law enforcement experience, including eight years as the President-appointed United States Marshall for Colorado. The session ends at 3:00 pm.

Copy this URL into your browser to register:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=H9sFq0zZg2_2bsMtAeSEAwqQ_3d_3d

Upcoming Meetings

Sept. 21-15

Montana Association of Counties (MACo) Annual Conference
Hamilton • <http://maco.cog.mt.us/>
Be sure to stop by the IM Booth!

Sept. 22

IM Technical Committee (IMTC)
Helena • 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
State Capitol, Room 172

Sept. 23 (Please Note Date/Location/Time Changes)

Western Consortium (WICC)
Hamilton • 2:00 pm
Ravalli County Courthouse, 205 Bedford St.

Sept. 24

Tri-County Consortium
Helena • 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Dept. of Corrections Annex, behind 515 N. Sanders St.

Sept. 29

Mobile Data Consortium (MDT)
Bozeman • 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Best Western City Center Motel, 507 W Main St.

Oct. 6

IM Finance Committee
Helena • 9:00 am - Noon
Anderson & ZurMuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

Oct. 6

IM Governance Committee
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm
DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

Oct. 7

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm • State Capitol, Room 152